

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 3:00 PM CST

Krueger Memorial Hall  
801 Liberty Trail  
Michigan City, IN 46360

## Attendance

### Board Members Present:

All Terrain Vehicle Users- Jay Jackson (proxy)  
Bicyclists: Bruce Jones (proxy)  
Environmental Groups- Don Bievenour (proxy)  
Equestrians- Yvette Rollins  
Four Wheel Drive Users- Ryan Sweany  
Higher Education/Health- John McNichols  
Hikers- Tim Calahan  
Mountain Bikers- Jeff Fetterer  
Pedestrians- Pat Martin  
Trail Support Groups- Mitch Barloga (proxy)  
Water Trail Users- Dan Plath

### DNR Staff:

Dale Brier- Outdoor Recreation  
Amy Marisavljevic- Outdoor Recreation

### Members Not Present:

Off-Road Motorcyclists- Tom Hartman  
Parks & Recreation Agencies- Melody Jones  
Snowmobilers- Len Neisler  
Users with Disabilities- David Meihls

### Guests:

Ken Purze- Kankakee River Basin Commission  
Shannon Eason- Michigan City Parks Department  
David Rollins  
Marlo Sweany

## Meeting Minutes

### Welcome

Vice Chair Dan Plath called the meeting to order due to the late arrival of Chair Yvette Rollins. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to Michigan City.

### Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Neil McCammack gave his proxy to Jay Jackson, Nancy Tibbett gave her proxy to Bruce Jones, Kevin Hardie gave his proxy to Don Bievenour, and Angie Pool gave her proxy to Mitch Barloga.

### Amended Agenda

Ken Purze requested to address the Trails Advisory Board on behalf of the Kankakee River Basin Commission. Plath stated Purze could address the board under New Business. Pat Martin made motion to approve the amended agenda and John McNichols seconded. Motion carried.

## **Review and Approval of June 26, 2014 Minutes**

Plath asked if there were any comments or amendments to the June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 minutes. No comments. Pat Martin made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Ryan Sweany seconded. Motion carried.

## **DNR Report**

Amy Marisavljevic announced the Division of Outdoor Recreation hosted a Trails Plan Update Charrette on July 11, 2014 in Indianapolis. The event was attended by over 80 trails advocates from across the state to discuss the Visionary Trail System and other important trail matters. She also stated that the Trail Stakeholder Survey was open from July 15 to August 15. She thanked those who participated in both the charrette and survey for their valuable input. The information gathered from these events will go into a new Trails Plan chapter in the new Indiana State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) that will be published in 2015.

Marisavljevic reported that the new buildings at Interlake State Recreation Area are nearing completion. She also reported that they had originally hoped to have an assistant property manager for Interlake, but are experiencing difficulties gaining permission from the Strategic Hiring Committee. Marisavljevic also mentioned a grant coordinator position in the Division of Outdoor Recreation is vacant since the departure of Susan Ostby.

## **Old Business**

### **Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience**

Marisavljevic reminded everyone that the Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience (FHOE) will be held Sept. 20 and 21 at Fort Harrison State Park. Marisavljevic thanked all those who were planning on participating again this year.

### **Travel Reimbursement**

Marisavljevic announced there seemed to be some confusion regarding travel reimbursement. Travel reimbursement is available for both members and proxies. If anyone would like to be reimbursed for travel, they must fill out 2 forms and submit them to Marisavljevic to be entered into the state system. Secondly, once in the system, those wanting reimbursement will need to sign and date a travel voucher at every meeting. If anyone needs the direct deposit forms or has questions, they should contact her.

## **New Business**

### **Website Updates**

Marisavljevic announced The Division of Outdoor Recreation website was recently reorganized, which includes the Trails Advisory Board (TAB) section. She stated that most changes to this section were either simply re-organization or updating deadlines. The only new additions are links to previously approved minutes and the upcoming agenda.

## **TAB Membership**

Marisavljevic announced that terms expiring on Feb 28, 2015 included Bicyclists, Higher Education/Health, Off-Road Motorcycles, Parks and Recreation Agencies, and Water Trail Users. Nominations will be accepted from December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 to January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. The nomination process is the same as previous years and can be found on the newly updated website.

## **Future Meetings**

Marisavljevic stated that since the TAB meetings are open to the public, they must be posted ahead of time with date, time, and location. They also must be held in an accessible location, which include both parking and restrooms. She announced that the next meeting will be on December 4, 2014 at 3:00 at the Indiana Government Center- South.

Marisavljevic reported that Angie Pool had expressed interest in hosting the September 2015 meeting at the Cardinal Greenway. Dale Brier opened the topic of future meeting locations. Pat Martin said he could potentially host the March meeting in Terre Haute. Dan Plath also stated he could potentially host in June, in perhaps Marquette Park or Whiting. Jeff Fetterer suggested that Southwestway Park would be an interesting place for the TAB to visit as they will have many multi-use trails in a compact site. Jay Jackson also suggested Lawrence County Recreational Park, while Ryan Sweany also mentioned wanting to have the group back to Interlake SRA when the buildings are open. Marisavljevic also announced she is willing to coordinate guest speakers for TAB meetings

## **Other Business**

**Kankakee River Basin Commission** Ken Purze introduced himself as the Vice Chair of the Kankakee River Basin Commission (KRBC) to TAB and the mission of the group, which includes agricultural, environmental, economic, and recreational aspects. As a representative of the KRBC, he wanted to extend a formal invitation with the members of TAB to talk about the possibility of multi-use trails along the earth embankments of the Kankakee River.

## **Update on RTP Grants**

Pat Martin inquired about the status of the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Grants approved by the TAB in June. Marisavljevic reported that DNR Director Cam Clark had approved the list.

## **User Group Reports**

### **All-Terrain Vehicle Users**

Jay Jackson, proxy for Neil McCammack, stated many OHV groups will provide recreation riding activities at the FHOE. He then mentioned that spring and summer 2014 were busy and successful with many high profile events and races, including the Camp Riley fundraiser.

Jackson expressed concern in the increase in OHV/ATV accidents, injuries, and fatalities involving youth this year. He reported most of the accidents were easily avoidable by following standard recommendations. He plans to contact the DNR Director to discuss ways to do more educational outreach.

### **Bicyclists**

Bruce Jones, proxy for Nancy Tibbett, announced that Bicycle Indiana is finishing up its Collision Report for 2014 with the help of IU Public Policy Institute and IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. It will be the first published since 2012. Bicycle Indiana is also working with Alta Planning on a guide to bicycle infrastructure and design. The guide will comply with Complete Streets and be targeted to non-professionals. Jones reported that the 2015 Resource Guide will be printed in December of 2014 and encouraged anyone with updates to resources or information on 2015 bicycle events contact [info@bicycleindiana.org](mailto:info@bicycleindiana.org). He then reported that the Annual Bike Summit will be in early 2015 in Indianapolis. Jones also mentioned Indianapolis will also be the site of another tentative Ride of Silence. The event is held internationally to honor cyclists who have died while riding.

### **Environmental Groups**

Don Bievenour, proxy for Kevin Hardie, shared that the Friends of White River passed a resolution in opposition to the dam proposal on the White River. Bivenour shared that they host a river school that takes adult and student groups from the greater Indianapolis area out on the White River. The organization also sponsors a number of clean ups on the river throughout the year.

### **Equestrians**

Yvette Rollins shared that the Hoosier Backcountry Horsemen had a workday in June for National Trails Day. The group replaced a bridge crossing in Hoosier National Forest (HNF). They also did another creek bed crossing project in the HNF for Take Pride in America Day.

### **Four-Wheel-Drive Users**

Ryan Sweany reported an enduro race was hosted at Interlake SRA in August and was well attended. The Hi-lift Trail Day was at Redbird SRA on August 23. The event had over 100 vehicles registered and raised a couple thousand dollars to benefit Camp Riley. A minor clean up at Fort Harrison State Park was done by the DNR and the Indiana 4 Wheel Drive Association (IFWDA) to get a trail ready for the FHOE. Finally, Sweany mentioned that the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual 4xKids Day was in July at Bradford Woods. The event featured 17 vehicles and 28 volunteers that gave Jeep rides to kids from Camp Riley and raised \$10,000.

## **Higher Education**

John McNichols confirmed that Indiana State University (ISU) will be building their new Track and Field Stadium on the Wabash River as part of Terre Haute's larger initiative to reconnect with the river. McNichols also announced that ISU trustees have recently signed a cooperative effort with Vigo County Parks to help maintain the Wabashiki Fish & Wildlife Area, which includes four and half miles of natural surface trails. ISU agreed to contribute \$25,000 a year for the next three years for maintenance of the park, which ISU utilizes as an environmental science lab and training location for athletes.

McNichols encouraged other TAB members to turn to their local universities for trail help. He said in the past they have used the graduate landscape architecture program at Purdue for a number of trail design projects. Additionally in Terre Haute, the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology has a senior design project every year that so far has resulted in 12-13 completed trail projects in Terre Haute. Brier also mentioned Bernie Dahl, a Landscape Architecture professor at Purdue University, who also is willing to work with trail groups when assigning his seniors' final design projects. Marisavljevic also suggested approaching Ball State's College of Architecture and Planning (CAP) which has programs in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, and historic preservation with projects. McNichols also stated Nathan Schaumleffel, an ISU Professor of Recreation, completed the master plan for Clay City Parks and Recreation. Plath also mentioned a successful partnership with Ivy Tech's welding program. Brier then suggested everyone e-mail contact information for their higher education partners to Amy Marisavljevic so she can create a list of potential resources for the TAB and trails community.

## **Hikers**

Tim Calahan made a comment regarding timber harvest notifications at several state properties. He stated that it seems unclear that the resources on the property, such as trails, will be closed due to the timber harvests and suggested the Division of Forestry make it clearer in their announcements. Rollins commented that landowners adjacent to Yellowwood were notified of the timber harvest and temporary re-routes. She stated that there was public meeting and citizens concerns were noted.

## **Mountain Biker Users**

Fetterer reported the RTP grant project at Southwestway Park is nearing completion. The project at O'Bannon Woods State Park, utilizing 2012 RTP grant funds, continues to be difficult. The project has been delayed with a water review and construction has yet to begin.

## **Pedestrians**

Pat Martin reported that Turn to the River, a plan to connect Terre Haute to the Wabash River funded partially by a grant from National Endowment for the Arts, has been completed. The plan

is approximately 140 pages and is now available online. A design charrette will be held in October with hopes of moving forward on the design phase of the project.

Martin also stated that the City of Terre Haute and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been working to clean up a brownfield along the river. The city will construct a combined sewer overflow project on the site as well as a trail. Construction on the trail will begin in October. The trail will be approximately two and half miles of crushed stone initially with plans for asphalt in the future.

### **Trails Support Groups**

Mitch Barloga, proxy for Angie Pool, informed the TAB that the Greenways Foundation continues to monitor statewide trail issues. In particular, he mentioned the Indiana Trails Maintenance Fund was established last year to assist in the maintenance of all types of trails in the state trail network. The Indiana Agriculture and Natural Resources Interim Study Committee will be meeting on September 17, 2014 in Terre Haute to discuss how to fund the account and other trail policy items. Barloga stated The Greenways Foundation would be there and encouraged other groups to come in support if they could.

### **Water Trail Users**

Dan Plath reported that the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (NIWPA) will be partnering again with the National Park Service (NPS), the DNR, Michigan City Parks, Wildness Inquiry, a non-profit from Minneapolis, and other groups on September 15-20 in La Porte County. During this week they will have a variety of outdoor events for kids, including paddling. They hope to get 600-800 kids canoeing on Trail Creek this year. They also applied for \$25,000 grant with the NPS to extend the event in Lake and Porter Counties, allowing them to get 6,000-8,000 kids on the water. They are also thinking about doing a similar event on the Kankakee River in October.

Plath introduced Shannon Eason of Michigan City Parks to give the TAB a quick update on the status of the Hansen Park boat launch. Easton stated the new canoe/kayak launch will be ADA compliant and make Hansen Park Michigan City's first completely accessible park. The launch is set to be completed by October 15. Plath added that a paddling campsite at the Kankakee River is in its second year. It's a partnership with NWIPA, La Porte Parks, La Porte Surveyor's Office, and the Kankakee River Basin Commission (KRBC).

Finally, Plath reported there is a plan for the east branch of the Little Calumet River to be a 16 mile continuous water trail that will end at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The NPS recently hosted a meeting where they saw public support for the plan.

**Announcements**

Covered Bridge Tour- September 13, Preble & Butler Counties, OH  
Interim Study Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources- September 17, Terre Haute  
4-Wheel Jamboree- September 19-21, Indiana State Fairgrounds  
Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience- September 20-21, Fort Harrison State Park  
Hassmer Fest- September 26-28, Versailles State Park  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act- September 27, Hoosier National Forest  
Jeep Jamboree-October 2-4, French Lick  
Brown County Epic Ride- October 10-12, Brown County State Park

**Future Meeting Dates**

December 4, 2014- Indiana Government Center- South, Indianapolis, IN

**Adjournment**

Jackson made a motion to adjourn and Fetterer seconded. Motion passed.